



# **Nevada Secretary of State, Barbara K. Cegavske**

## **2018 HAVA Election Security Grant Project Narrative**

### **July 2018**

---

The following project narrative describes how the Office of the Nevada Secretary of State plans to use the \$4,277,723.00 award and \$213,886.00 required matching funds. This narrative includes the timeframe for the use of the funds, as well as the immediate and long-term activities/improvements. It also includes a description of the allocation and expenditure of the required matching funds.

#### Voting Equipment Replacement and Upgrades

In 2017, all of Nevada's local election officials purchased new voting equipment. The old voting equipment had surpassed its usable life. Due to the lack of available parts and functionality limitations, a new system was purchased during State Fiscal Year 2018. As such, 2018 HAVA Election Security Grant funds will not be used to purchase voting equipment. A portion of this expense will go towards the State Match Requirement as an in-kind contribution. Please see the Narrative section regarding the State Match Requirement.

#### Election Auditing

Nevada currently has standard post-election auditing. This category will use grant funds to expand upon current practices and procedures, as well as utilize industry best practices within the state. For example, the Secretary of State will hire a full-time position dedicated to improving the administration of federal elections through local election official procedure audits, in conjunction with review and improvement of state guidance of election procedures. A majority of Nevada's local election officials are part-time election administrators, and the improvement of defined and well-rounded state guidance will enhance the integrity and uniformity of administration of elections for federal office at the local level. More robust post-election auditing will also be undertaken using the grant funds.

#### Voting Registration Systems and Management

The current statewide voter registration list utilizes standard security features and protocol. Use of the HAVA Election Security Grant will provide for significant enhancements and upgrades. Such activities and improvements include the addition of features that align the web-based system with modern security concerns, such as multi-factor authentication. In addition to physical system improvements, funds will provide for user training. Local election officials will undergo a Secretary of State evaluation and training before the issuance of access credentials. Such assessment will include a needs-based analysis in addition to system-role limitations.

The addition of a full-time position will provide the Secretary of State with the bandwidth necessary to achieve the above goals. This position will focus on improving the security of and data in the statewide system and the procedures for data management and maintenance according to federal and state requirements. This is especially helpful as Nevada utilizes a bottom-up system where local election officials manage and maintain a county voter registration system that feeds batch data into the statewide system to comply with federal requirements. This system model has elevated data and security concerns. This position will significantly mitigate these concerns through analysis and process review.

Lastly, the availability of a voter's registration record for review and editing by the registrant provides for better data accuracy and management. The Secretary of State currently provides this functionality to registered voters amid a variety of different systems. Grant funds will provide for the development of a single point of access for voters to access and manage their voter registration record. This voter information portal directly contributes to

the security and improvement of elections through increased transparency of voter registration information - the basis for a clean and secure election. A single point of access also allows for the consolidation of data security mechanisms into one system.

#### Cyber Vulnerabilities

One of the immediate actions taken will include the evaluation of state and local data and system management. Due to the physical design and placement of voter registration and voting systems, the state plans to use grant funds to contract with government and private entities for review, analysis, and improvement of procedures and practices for administering these systems. In addition to the proactive measures, the Secretary of State will invest in strategic alliances for retroactive review of systems to determine previous penetration activity or attempts and dormant files detection. This category will also provide for the establishment of procedures for local election official training, with emphasis on cybersecurity awareness.

#### Training

The Secretary of State will use expenditures within this category to provide state and local election officials with staff development and training. These activities will improve the administration of elections for federal office and election security through access to new and additional resources, including the exposure of local election officials to resources and conversations available to state and federal election officials.

#### Communication

The Secretary of State will use a nominal portion of the grant funds to increase public awareness regarding local and state resources available to registered voters to access, review, and secure their voter registration record. Additional voter education will include increased public awareness about the measures taken by local and state election officials to collect, secure, and maintain voter registration and voting systems.

#### Other: Election Jurisdiction Grants

This category will include three subsections: (1) county voter registration database security; (2) ballot and voting equipment security enhancements; and (3) improvements to the administration of elections for federal office. These grants will require local election officials to demonstrate need and local sustainability. Database security grants will likely include, but are not limited to, the implementation of intrusion detection systems and contracts. Ballot and voting equipment security grants will assist local election officials with the improvement of physical and electronic security practices for the voting systems, such as the tamper evident security seals, physical security mechanisms, and video surveillance. Grants for the improvement of the administration of federal elections will provide local election officials with the ability to make proposals regarding self-assessment of local concerns and issues. Grants will also serve as the basis for potential best practices and or mandatory requirements for other election jurisdictions.

#### Required State Match

The Secretary of State will allocate \$213,886.00 of the State funds expended on replacement voting equipment as an in-kind match equal to the amount required by the 2018 HAVA Election Security Grant.



## 2018 HAVA ELECTION SECURITY GRANT

### Budget Information

CFDA # 90.404

Non-Construction Program

Name of Organization:

Office of the Nevada Secretary of State

Budget Period Start:

3/23/2018

### SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

(Consolidated Budget for total project term--  
up to 5 years as defined by grantee)

Budget Period End:

3/22/2023

FEDERAL & NON-FEDERAL FUNDS (Match)

### PROGRAM CATEGORIES

BUDGET CATEGORIES	(a) Voting Equipment	(b) Election Auditing	(c) Voter Registration Systems	(d) Cyber Security	(e) Communications	(f) Other: Improve Admin of Federal Elections	(g) Other	TOTALS	% Fed Total
1. PERSONNEL (including fringe)	\$ -	\$ 384,000.00	\$ 355,965.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 739,965.00	17%
2. EQUIPMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,242,584.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,242,584.00	29%
3. SUBGRANTS- to local voting jurisdictions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 155,114.00	\$ -	\$ 235,114.00	5%
4. TRAINING	\$ -	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	\$ 84,000.00	\$ -	\$ 254,000.00	6%
5. All OTHER COSTS	\$ -	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 1,080,620.00	\$ 175,440.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,806,060.00	42%
6. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (1-6)	\$ -	\$ 719,000.00	\$ 2,799,169.00	\$ 220,440.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 239,114.00	\$ -	\$ 4,277,723.00	
7. INDIRECT COSTS (if applied)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
8. Total Federal Budget	\$ -	\$ 719,000.00	\$ 2,799,169.00	\$ 220,440.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 239,114.00	\$ -	\$ 4,277,723.00	
11. Non-Federal Match	\$ 213,886.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 213,886.00	
12. Total Program Budget	\$ 213,886.00	\$ 719,000.00	\$ 2,799,169.00	\$ 220,440.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 239,114.00	\$ -	\$ 4,491,609.00	
13. Percentage By Category	0%	17%	65%	5%	7%	6%	0%		

Proposed State Match

5.0%

A. Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government or some other non-federal entity?

If yes, please provide the following information:

B. Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (mm/dd/yyyy-mm/dd/yyyy):

C. Approving Federal agency:

D. If other than Federal agency, please specify:

E. The Indirect Cost Rate is: